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BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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JUN - 1 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of:

Amendment of the Commission's
Rules to Establish New
Personal Communications
Services

GEN Docket No. 90-314
ET Docket No. 92-100

COMMENTS OF USAIR, INC.

Communications with respect to this document should be sent to:

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USAir, Inc. submits these comments in order to urge the Commission to accommodate in its narrowband PCS rules a service of the type which In-Flight Phone Corp. ("In-Flight") has proposed in its comments and reply comments in this proceeding.¹ In its filings, In-Flight urged the Commission to adopt rules governing narrowband PCS that will permit the grant of at least one license to provide a nationwide service on a 500 kHz channel block. If the Commission does this, In-Flight has stated that it

¹"Comments of In-Flight Phone Corp." (Nov. 9, 1992); "Reply Comments of In-Flight Phone Corp." (Jan. 8, 1993). The Commission should accept USAir's late-filed comments because (a) USAir was not a directly interested party at the time comments were due in these dockets, (b) acceptance of the comments will not delay the proceeding since Commission staff have indicated that the agency may not finalize its decision in these dockets for several months, and (c) all participants in the proceeding who commented on the Commission's proposed narrowband PCS rules are being served with a copy of the present comments.

would apply for a license to provide a nine-channel live audio programming service to aircraft using terrestrial transmitters. In-Flight obtained an experimental license in 1992 to provide this service using spectrum within the band that is presently allocated for mobile services including aeronautical services but which the FCC now has proposed for narrowband PCS.² USAir has subscribed to the In-Flight experimental offering and hopes to initiate service on board its commercial fleet late this Summer.³

DISCUSSION

For three reasons of importance to USAir, the FCC's narrowband PCS rules should permit the grant of at least one license for a service of the type which In-Flight has proposed. Each reason is discussed separately below.

First, USAir believes that a live, multi-channel audio programming service would have substantial appeal to airline passengers by permitting them for the first time to stay in touch with the world around them and enjoy a wide range of audio programming in the same way they do today when they are almost anywhere other than on an airplane. For example, airline passengers for the first time would have access to live play-by-

²Station KK2XBN. File No. 2234-FX-PI-91 (granted Feb. 21.

play coverage of their favorite sports events and live coverage of important news events like the President's State of the Union speech or election night balloting or fast-breaking major news events like last year's Los Angeles riots and the 1991 Gulf War. The service also would be appealing to passengers because it would let them stay abreast of weather and traffic conditions at

For the foregoing reasons, USAir urges the Commission to

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify, that a copy of the attached "Comments of USAir, Inc." was mailed by first class mail to each of the following on June 1, 1993.

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